



Environmental Bulletin

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from the Savannah River Site

Interim Action Proposed Plan for Miscellaneous Chemical Basin/Metals Burning Pit

The United States Department of Energy (US DOE) will release an Interim Action Proposed Plan on January 29, 1999 describing the proposed interim remedial action for the Miscellaneous Chemical Basin/Metals Burning Pit (MCB/MBP) Operable Unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The plan will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for January 29 to February 27, 1999. This document was completed to meet the terms of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), a law governing the investigation and cleanup of waste units. US DOE has worked with the United States Environmental Protection Agency-Region IV (US EPA) and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) to ensure the remedial approach is consistent with all applicable environmental requirements.

The US DOE, US EPA, and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks and Interim Action Proposed Plan for Miscellaneous Chemical Basin/Metals Burning Pits associated with the unit and are recommending the following interim actions for the MCB/MBP:

1) Surface/subsurface soil - Institutional Controls, Soil Excavation and Offsite Disposal for the MCB to remove contaminated soil above the ecological and industrial risk level to a one-foot depth, and Soil Excavation and Offsite Disposal for the MBP to remove aluminum contaminated soil above the site-specific maximum background level to a four-foot depth;

2) Vadose zone soil - Active and Passive

Soil Vapor Extraction; and

3) Groundwater - In Situ Air Stripping and Monitoring

An interim action is proposed because of the uncertainty of the groundwater remediation within the overall unit remediation strategy.

The MCB is estimated to have been approximately 20-by-20 feet long and approximately one foot deep. It is assumed that waste solvents and used oil were placed in the basin, although disposal records were not kept. It is believed that drums were emptied at this site and then discarded at the MBP. The basin was in use from about 1956 to 1974, when it was regraded.

The MBP is irregular in shape, approximately 400-by-400 feet. It is a cleared area that was used as a burning area for lithium-aluminum alloys, scrap, and cuttings from the A/M Area operations. The MBP is not an excavated pit. Waste materials such as metal shavings, pieces of aluminum, plastic pipe, metal drums, and other miscellaneous scrap were piled 3-to-6 feet high and burned. Wastes were primarily contained in two discrete areas, one large pile and a series of small piles oriented in a semi-circular arc. The MBP was reportedly in service from 1960 through 1974. At that time, the waste piles were regraded and the area was allowed to revegetate.

Comments on the Interim Action Proposed Plan are requested by February 27, 1999. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Interim Record of Decision and will be sent

to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Interim Action Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record which also contains the RCRA Facility Investigation/Remedial Investigation Report with Baseline Risk Assessment (RFI/RI/BRA) report for this unit. The administrative record is available in the information repositories listed below:

- DOE Public Reading Room at the Gregg-Graniteville Library at the University of South Carolina-Aiken campus in Aiken, SC; and

- Thomas Cooper Library Government Documents Department at the University of South Carolina in Columbia, SC.

Hard copies of the Interim Action Proposed Plan are available at the following locations:

- Reese Library at Augusta State University in Augusta, GA; and

- Asa H. Gordon Library at Savannah State University in Savannah, GA.

The Interim Action Proposed Plan is also available on the Internet at the SRS Home Page (<http://www.srs.gov>), under "Happening Now," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.htm>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page under "Public Involvement," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/erd/pub/pubinv.html>).

Comments on the Interim Action Proposed Plan may be sent to Jim Moore. For additional information or to request a public meeting, contact:

Jim Moore

Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Building 742-A
Aiken, SC 29808

Proposed remedial approach for Savannah River Laboratory Seepage Basins

The United States Department of Energy US DOE will release a Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan on January 29, 1999, describing the proposed remedial approach for the Savannah River Laboratory (SRL) Seepage Basins operable unit at the Savannah River Site (SRS). The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC) will also release a draft Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) permit modification for the proposed remedial action for this unit. These documents will be available for public review and copying at the locations listed below. The public comment period is scheduled for January 29, 1999, to March 14, 1999.

US DOE, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and SCDHEC have reviewed the risks associated with this unit and have evaluated eleven (11) cleanup alternatives. The three agencies are recommending the following actions for the SRL Seepage Basins soil and process sewer line:

- Excavate one foot of contaminated soil from the sides and bottom of basins 1 and 3;
- Excavate four feet of contaminated soil from the bottom and one foot from the sides of basin 2;
- Remove the process sewer line (including one foot of soil below the sewer line) from the basin to the first manhole, (approximately 375 feet);
- Dispose of the process sewer pipe and contaminated soils at a licensed off SRS disposal facility; and
- Place an earthen cover over the four basins.

These actions will minimize the direct radiation risk and potential future impacts to the groundwater. This alternative will be protective of human health and the environment. It is also intended to be the final action for the SRL Seepage Basins source unit.

The basins are located in the northwestern section of SRS, about 4000 ft from the nearest SRS boundary and 4500 ft from the nearest residence. The SRL Seepage Basins were used from 1954 to 1982 to manage low-level radioactive waste liquids from research conducted in two Savannah River Laboratory buildings. The four basins together comprise an area of 2.15 acres.

Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan and the draft RCRA permit modification are requested by March 14, 1999. Upon completion of the public comment period, a Responsiveness Summary that addresses public comments will be prepared. The Responsiveness Summary will be made available with the Record of Decision and the final RCRA permit decision, and will be sent to each person who submits comments.

Copies of the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan are available in the administrative record which also contains the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) report for these units. The administrative record is available in the information repositories listed on page three.

If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan may be sent to Mr. Jim Moore, and comments on the draft RCRA permit modification

may be sent to Mr. John Litton. If there is interest in discussing this recommended remedial approach, a public hearing may be requested. Comments on the Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan may be sent to Jim Moore, and comments on the draft RCRA permit modification may be sent to John Litton.

for more information

The Statement of Basis/Proposed Plan is also available on the Internet in the SRS Home Page under (<http://www.srs.gov>), under "Happening Now," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srs-home.htm>) and on the SRS Environmental Restoration Home Page, under "Public Involvement," (<http://www.srs.gov/general/srenviro/erd/pub/pubinv.html>)

Copies of the draft RCRA permit modifications are available for review at SCDHEC during regular business hours, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except legal holidays, at the following locations:

SCDHEC
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
8901 Farrow Road
Columbia, South Carolina 29203
Phone: (803)896-4000

or
SCDHEC
Lower Savannah District
Environmental Quality Control Office
218 Beaufort St., N.E.
Aiken, SC 29802
Phone: (803) 641-7670

For additional information or to request a public meeting contact:

Jim Moore
Westinghouse Savannah River Company
Savannah River Site
Building 742-A
Aiken, SC 29808
1-800-249-8155
jim02.moore@srs.gov

or
SCDHEC
Attn: John Litton, P.E., Director
Division of Hazardous and Infectious Waste Mgt.
Bureau of Land and Waste Management
2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 896-4000

Current NEPA actions affecting SRS

- **Accelerator for Production of Tritium (APT) (DOE/EIS-0270)**, The Secretary has selected the Commercial Light Water Reactor (CLWR) as the primary tritium production technology with APT as backup. Publication of the final EIS is expected during the February - March time frame.
 - **Tritium Extraction Facility (TEF) (DOE/EIS-0271)**, The Secretary has selected the CLWR as the primary tritium production technology with APT as backup. Publication of the final EIS is expected during the February - March time frame. The TEF will be built at Savannah River Site to Support the CLWR option.
 - **Rocky Flats Plutonium Residues and Scrub Alloy (DOE/EIS-0277)**, The final EIS was issued on August 28, 1998 (63 FR 46006). The first ROD was issued December 1, 1998 (63 FR 66316). The second ROD will be issued 1st quarter, 1999.
 - **SRS Spent Nuclear Fuel (DOE/EIS-0279)**, The draft EIS was issued December 24, 1998. The public meetings are scheduled for January 28, 1999 in Columbia, SC and February 2, 1999 in North Augusta, SC.
 - **DOE Waste Management (DOE/EIS-0200)**, Multiple RODs will be issued. Planned RODs are HLW storage and LLW/LLMW, early 1999.
 - **Closure of High Level Waste Tanks at SRS (DOE/EIS-0303)**, The NOI was issued December 29, 1998 (63FR71628). The public scoping meetings are scheduled for January 14, 1999 in North Augusta, SC and January 19, 1999 in Columbia, SC.
 - **Surplus Plutonium Disposition (DOE/EIS-0282)**, Public comments are being addressed and the final EIS is being prepared. The expected issue date for the final EIS is January 1999 with a ROD one month later.
 - **Wetland Mitigation Bank Program (DOE/EA-1205)**, The public comment period was extended to accommodate the receipt of SC and local stakeholder comments. A decision (FONSI or EIS) is expected in early 1999.
 - **Par Pond Dam Repair Project (DOE/EA-1285)**, The NOI to prepare this EA was sent to the states of South Carolina and Georgia on December 8, 1998. A decision (FONSI or EIS) is expected in mid 1999.
- EA -- Environmental Assessment**
EIS -- Environmental Impact Statement
FONSI -- Finding of No Significant Impact
NOI -- Notice of Intent
ROD -- Record of Decision

Need NEPA documents?

Andrew R. Grainger

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Operations Office

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E-mail: nepa@srs.gov
1-800-881-7292

INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

- DOE Public Reading Room,
Gregg-Graniteville Library,
USC-Aiken, Aiken, SC
- Thomas Cooper Library,
Government Documents Department,
USC-Columbia, Columbia, SC
- Reese Library, Augusta State University,
Augusta, GA
- Asa H. Gordon Library, Savannah State
University, Savannah, GA

INTERNET ACCESS

SRS Home Page, <http://www.srs.gov>

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For more information on this or other cleanup
and compliance activities at SRS, please contact:

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